

Occurrence of antibiotics and antibacterial substances in feeds and water for animals in Warmia and Mazury in 2015-2018

Summary

Antibiotics have been used in both human and veterinary medicine for many decades. Their excessive use, however, has led to an increase in antibiotic resistance. For this reason, the use of antibiotics in animal feed has been prohibited in all European Union countries since January 2006, creating the need to strengthen the natural antibiotic resistance of animals and stabilize their gut microflora using natural methods (such as the use of herbs and medicinal plants in the diet). The aim of the study was to analyse the presence of antibiotics and antibacterial substances in feed and water for livestock in the area monitored by the Veterinary Hygiene Institute in Olsztyn in 2015-2018. Confirmation of residues of antibiotics and other antibacterial substances contained in feed and water for animals was carried out in accordance with the research procedures PB/MPA/12 and PB/MPA/03. In the period analysed, 92 feed samples and 1047 water samples were taken. The percentages of positive samples were 5.43% for feeds and 2.48% for water. Despite numerous objections by scientists, antibiotics are still used in veterinary medicine, especially to reduce the death rate in livestock production. For this reason, it seems necessary to monitor the presence of residues of antibacterial substances at each stage of production of products of animal origin, and in particular in feed and water for livestock.

KEY WORDS: antibiotics, livestock, antibiotic resistance